

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CU-02 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OES-03 NIC-01 /079 W

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R 211822Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8882

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, NATO, UR, GW

SUBJECT: BONN REACTS SHARPLY TO SOVIET-INSPIRED

SPIEGEL ARTICLE

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG HAS HIT BACK BY MEANS OF A  
FOREIGN OFFICE BACKGROUNDER AT SOVIET ATTACKS ON BONN'S  
CSCE AND BERLIN POLICIES, AND ON FOREIGN MINISTER  
GENSCHER PERSONALLY, CONTAINED IN A SPIEGEL ARTICLE  
INSPIRED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BONN. END SUMMARY.

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1. FRG FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL GAVE A BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO GERMAN JOURNALISTS MARCH 18 TO COUNTER A NUMBER OF RECENT SOVIET ATTACKS (SEPTEL) ON FRG POLICY. THE BACKGROUNDER WAS EVIDENTLY TRIGGERED BY AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 17 EDITION OF SPIEGEL ENTITLED "OSTPOLITIK: BETTER WITH THE CDU", INSPIRED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BONN, WHICH CITED THE SOVIETS AS BEING HIGHLY CRITICAL OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER PERSONALLY. A SUMMARY OF THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE IS GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH.

2. BEGIN ARTICLE SUMMARY: SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN, DURING A RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, RECEIVED NEW ORDERS TO THE EFFECT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER SHOULD BE MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DIFFICULTIES IN GERMAN-SOVIET RELATIONS IN ORDER TO PLACE THE FRG UNDER PRESSURE. SOVIET DIPLOMATS SAY THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE FRG TODAY IS A RENAISSANCE OF GERMAN NATIONALISM. A SPOKESMAN FOR FALIN INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS COULD LOSE INTEREST IN FURTHER COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION. THE SOVIETS HINTED RELATIONS MIGHT GO MORE SMOOTHLY WITH A CDU/CSU GOVERNMENT. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WOULD PURSUE A MORE REALISTIC POLICY THAN THE SPD/FPD TOWARD WEST BERLIN, SINCE THE FORMER DO NOT HAVE ALWAYS TO PROVE THEIR SUPPORT OF GERMAN NATIONAL INTERESTS. MOSCOW FEELS ESPECIALLY PROVOKED BY GENSCHER'S BERLIN POLICY. THE RESULT HAS BEEN THAT VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC MATTERS HAVE COME TO NAUGHT. GENSCHER, FOR HIS PART, HAS REFUSED TO ACCOMMODATE TO SOVIET POSITIONS AND HAS ATTEMPTED TO PUT SOME MEANING INTO THE QA PROVISION REGARDING THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FRG TIES TO WEST BERLIN. THE SOVIETS BELIEVE GENSCHER PUT THE BRAKES ON THE CSCE CONFERENCE OVER THE PEACEFUL CHANGE OF FRONTIERS ISSUE. NO SOONER HAD THE SOVIETS AND US AGREED ON A FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG THAN GENSCHER USED THE CBM ISSUE AS A NEW IMPEDIMENT. SPIEGEL COMMENTED THAT GENSCHER MAY BE

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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ENDANGERING BREZHNEV'S PET PROJECT OF A SPECTACULAR  
SUMMER SUMMIT CONCLUSION TO CSCE. THE ARTICLE  
CONCLUDES BY CITING SOME EASTERN EXPERTS IN THE FOREIGN  
OFFICE AND CHANCELLERY WHO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS  
WILL NOT CARRY THE PRESENT POLITICAL STRAINS TO EX-  
TREMES. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IS REPORTED AS BEING IN-  
TERESTED IN ASSURING CLOSE SOVIET-GERMAN ECONOMIC  
RELATIONS, AND AS BEING UNWILLING TO TOLERATE ANY  
LONGER HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S "PIN PRICK" POLICY  
TOWARDS BERLIN. END SUMMARY OF SPIEGEL ARTICLE.

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3. THE VAN WELL BACKGROUNDER RESULTED IN A SERIES OF

ARTICLES IN THE GERMAN PRESS ON MARCH 19, INCLUDING A BONN GENERAL ANZEIGER PIECE WHICH QUOTED "BONN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES" AS BEING IN FAVOR OF NEW FOUR-POWER CONSULTATIONS ON BERLIN TO CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE FRG'S TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS WITH THE EAST, AND ALSO THE QUESTION OF FRG PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN. HOWEVER, A RELIABLE FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE HAS DENIED EMPHASITICALLY THAT IT WAS VAN WELL'S INTENTION TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS. THE ARTICLES IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS COUNTERED THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT BONN WAS UNDERMINING THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, WHILE NOTING THAT THE INCLUSION OF A BERLIN CLAUSE IN FRG TREATIES AND FEDERAL PRESENCE IN BERLIN REPRESENTED TWO MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS.

4. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IS A FAVORITE WHIPPING BOY OF SPIEGELS, INCLUDING HIS VIEWS ON OSTPOLITIK. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE SPIEGEL PIECE INCLUDES THE POINT THAT SCHMIDT IS NO LONGER WILLING TO PUT UP WITH GENSCHER'S "POLICY OF PIN PRICKS" AGAINST THE EAST ON BERLIN. THIS SOUNDS VERY MUCH WHAT SPIEGEL WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN, AND SUCH A DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING A MORE PRONOUNCED AND MORE POSITIVE INVOLVEMENT BY SCHMIDT IN OSTPOLITIK, AT GENSCHER'S EXPENSE, WOULD BE IN THE SOVIET INTEREST. AMBASSADOR FALIN WOULD ALSO SEEM TO STAND TO GAIN PERSONALLY BY SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WOULD SERVE PRESUMABLY TO PUT FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS ON A MORE EVEN COURSE ONCE AGAIN.

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